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SIXPENNY PIECES. By A. Neil Lyons, Author of *Arthur's*. New York : John Lane Co.

The extensive practice of a doctor in the purlieus of Mile End Road, London, who boasted an income of twelve hundred a year derived entirely from sixpence fees (spot cash), furnishes the materials for the forty-two sketches of character in this book of about three hundred pages. The author describes himself therein as "the representative of an inexpensive but celebrated newspaper;" and judging from his style, his description is probably truthful. There is a subtle humor in the sketches, not unmixed with pathos, and all are presented in a manner to convince the reader that they are accurate pictures of the people described and of the classes for which the people stand.

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OVER AGAINST GREEN PEAK. By Zephine Humphrey. New York : Henry Holt & Co.

A bright, entertaining, readable account of the experiences and impressions of three well bred women who move from the city to the country, where they buy an old house and settle down to peace and quiet, looking forward to harmony and repose for the remainder of their lives. The subject is well conceived, and the incidents of getting settled — the library, the family horse, housekeeping experiments, the garden and orchard, and the rural community — and the shocks of getting shaken down to their new surroundings and new neighbors are admirably described. Most excellent light reading with a delicious atmosphere of fancy and playful wit.

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A LITTLE LAND AND A LIVING. By Bolton Hall. New York: The Arcadia Press.

In this little book Mr. Hall not only attempts but succeeds in showing that country life pays. Not only does it pay, but it is interesting and satisfying as an occupation. This is most entertaining and instructive reading. Probably no one disputes that intelligent farming pays. The difficulty arises over the tedium of waiting for results, and the traditional sordidness and physical discomfort of farming as a

means of livelihood. Mr. Hall shows that none of these inheres in farming, but that upon only a small piece of land, a moderate family can live with greater comfort, independence, and enjoy greater conveniences than in the city. It is good reading for the general reader; and in so far as it suggests an opportunity for freedom and independence to sufferers from the overcrowding and pinching competition of the cities, it is a valuable contribution to sociological literature.

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INTO THE NIGHT: A STORY OF NEW ORLEANS. By Frances Nimmo Greene. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

New Orleans, always a romantic city, furnishes the setting; and members of the Mafia whose murder of Chief of Police Hennessey, and their execution at the hands of the people, in the early nineties, furnish the suggestion of a plot for the story contained in this book. But the plot is rather crudely worked out; the situations appear strained, and the writer seems not to have imbibed the true spirit of New Orleans, nor to have made the best use of the materials selected for the story. Nor is the reader able at the end of the book to see what application the title has to the story.

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THE ETHICS OF PROGRESS. By Charles P. Dole. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

Ethics, as usually written about, are either dry metaphysics or dilute goody-good platitudes of advice. To turn such platitudes into philosophy and philosophy into poetry, is something like a North-Pole feat. But the author has achieved it, or as nearly achieved it as popular culture will at present permit. What his argument lacks in technical closeness and the clinch of inevitable inference, it has gained by lucidity of style, and apt and familiar illustration. An aristocrat in the quality of his thought, he is a democrat in manner, and would rule the minds he writes for, by serving them. He washes the feet of his disciples. You read the successive chapters with a sense of entertainment that forgets the depth of the problems they deal with — such problems, for in-